



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG-2) ✓
FLEET POST OFFICE
MIAMI FL 34090-1232

5757
DDG 2-CO
11 Aug 87

From: Commanding Officer, USS CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG-2)
To: Chief of Naval Operations
Subj: REQUEST FOR ANNUAL COMMAND HISTORY
Ref: CNO ltr 5757 Ser SH/3147 of 31 Jul 87

1. With regards to reference (a) the ship's command history is forwarded.


R.D. HELM
By direction

OUR GREAT GRAY LADY AND HER RECORD

On June 16, 1958, the keel was laid for the first destroyer planned and built as a guided missile ship for the United States Navy, at Bath Iron Works, Bath, Maine. This was the birth of USS CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG-2), first of 21 ships in her class

She is named for Charles F. Adams, great grandson of John Quincy Adams, sixth president of the United States, and great, great grandson of John Adams, second president of the United States. Charles F. Adams was noted for his untiring efforts to keep the Navy a power in international affairs while Secretary of the Navy in 1929-1933 in spite of an apathetic and economy minded public. A fine yachtsman, Charles F. Adams captained the 1921 America's Cup winner.

USS CHARLES F. ADAMS was launched on Maine's Kennebec River on September 8, 1959 by Mrs. Robert Homans, sister of the namesake.

Equipped with ASROC, TARTAR guided missile system, six conventional Torpedo tubes, and two 5"/54 caliber gun mounts, CHARLES F. ADAMS conducted intensive technical evaluations following commissioning.

The guided missile destroyer made her first overseas deployment in November 1961 as a member of Destroyer Squadron Six.

Adams participated in the Project Mercury manned space flight recovery operations in the Fall of 1962. Following CDR Schirra's orbital flight on October 3, 1962 and the successful recovery, ADAMS proceeded to Norfolk to commence her duties as surface-to-air TARTAR missile school ship. This was a first, both for ADAMS and the Navy.

While engaged in these duties, the Cuban missile crisis developed and ADAMS took her place in the Caribbean as one of the ships actively involved in the quarantine and surveillance operations.

During Operation SPRINGBOARD 1964, ADAMS, along with two other ships, worked with USS SARATOGA (CV-60) to evaluate a new concept in tactical formations, the fast carrier task group.

CHARLES F. ADAMS made the first of her Mediterranean deployments in November 1964.

In 1968, ADAMS became only the second DDG in history to hit a surface target ship with a TARTAR missile.

In July 1969, ADAMS left her homeprt of eight years, Charleston, S.C., and moved to her new home, Mayport, Florida.

ADAMS became FLAGSHIP for DESRON 24 during her 1969 Mediterranean deployments.

In 1972, CHARLES F. ADAMS found herself as a member of the Standing Naval Forces Atlantic, where she operated in a task group with ships from Canada, Great Britain, The Federal Republic of Germany, Portugal, the Netherlands and Turkey.

In August of 1973, USS CHARLES F. ADAMS departed on an eventful cruise, stopping in many countries not normally visited by the United States Navy ships. Transiting the South Atlantic, ADAMS first stopped at Recife, Brazil, then transited straight across the Atlantic, rounding the Cape of Good Hope and visiting Angola, Mozambique, Mauritius, Kenya, and many other African countries during an eight month Middle east deployment.

During regular overhaul at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard in 1975, CHARLES F. ADAMS became authorized to conduct twin drop-zone helicopter flight operations. Also during the 1975 overhaul, CHARLES F. ADAMS gained a new MK 42 Mod 10 5"/54 gun system, a new Gunfire control system including a foreward looking Intra-Red sensor unit, and a Laser ranging unit. She also received an AS/SP5-39A height finding radar unit.

1976 saw CHARLES F. ADAMS deployed as a test platform for the Gunnery Improvement Program and after making Mediterranean deployments in 1977 and 1978, she once again entered the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard where more changes were made on the weapons systems including the addition of the new twin-dome PAIR sonar system and HARPOON surface-to-air missile capabilities.

On November 19, 1980, CHARLES F. ADAMS began her first major deployment in two years. December 17, 1980 brought her to the SEVENTH Fleet for Indian Ocean operations with the USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) Battle Group. During the 204 day Indian Ocean deployment, CHARLES F. ADAMS steamed over 65,000 miles, crossed the Equator eight times, transited the Cape of Good Hope and Suez Canal, and visited Banbury, Australia, the farthest east the ship had ever sailed in her twenty-five year career.

On 14 June 1982, CHARLES F. ADAMS departed Mayport for her second STANAVFORLANT deployment. During the six month tour, she operated with the forces of

and visited England, France, Norway, Belgium, Denmark, Holland and Germany. Upon her return, she once again entered Philadelphia Naval Shipyard for regular overhaul.

During this overhaul, the ship received the SLQ-32, a chaff deployment system, and a major revamping of shipboard air conditioning systems. Additionally, major structural work was accomplished along with other alterations to ensure effective operations during the next operating period.

On 1 February 1984, CHARLES F. ADAMS completed overhaul and returned to Mayport, Florida. The remainder of 1984 was spent training. The CHARLES F. ADAMS made a Caribbean cruise for weapons systems training. They completed Refresher Training at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

After completing pre-deployment build-up, CHARLES F. ADAMS departed for her second Middle east deployment 4 February 1985. During this deployment, spent mostly in the Persian Gulf, the ship was underway over 85% of the time which included visits to Bahrain, Palma de Mallorca, Spain, Lisbon, Portugal, Karachi, Pakistan, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and Djibouti.

After returning to Mayport, Florida 5 August 1985, CHARLES F. ADAMS has made several commitments in the local operating areas.

From January until March 1986, CHARLES F. ADAMS underwent a Selective Restricted Availabilty period (SRA), where equipment was repaired and replaced throughout the ship and major structural repairs were done, to upgrade the ship's ability to conduct her mission.

In April 1986, CHARLES F. ADAMS got underway and participated in Ocean Venture 1986. During the Ocean Venture cruise the ship visited Port-au-Prince, Haiti for a two day port visit. While there, the CHARLES F. ADAMS was visited by The Head of State of Haiti, Lieutenant General Henri Namphy, along with other top officials.

From April through September CHARLES F. ADAMS underwent much training and various inspections including the ship's Command Inspection, Preventive Maintenance System inspection, Supply Management Inspection and Nuclear Technical Proficiency Inspection.

During that same time, CHARLES F. ADAMS conducted various Naval Gunfire Support Missions off the coast of Vieques Island and at Bloodsworth Island. The ship had numerous opportunities to utilize the ship's entire weapons systems to maintain the highest level of proficiency for Anti-air, submarine and surface warfare.

After all inspections and qualifications were completed, USS CHARLES F. ADAMS was awarded with the Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet Battle Efficiency "E".

When fully equipped and manned, USS CHARLES F. ADAMS displaces 4500 tons. Her overall length is 437 feet with a 47-foot beam. She is powered by four 1200 PSI boilers and two screws. The crew is normally composed of 20 officers and 320 enlisted men.

USS CHARLES F. ADAMS, one of the most versatile and dependable ships of the United States Fleet, had made eight Mediterranean deployments, one Middle East deployment and one Indian Ocean deployment, as well as numerous local operations and Caribbean exercises in her twenty-five year career.

USS CHARLES F. ADAMS, First in her class of guided missile destroyers, is currently assigned as a unit of Destroyer Squadron Twelve, and is currently homeported in Mayport, Florida.